

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

200832Z Mar 02

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ8052

PAGE 01 HARARE 00727 200846Z  
ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W			

-----77D25A 200847Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1273  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 000727

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND  
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI  
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ZI](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION CALL FOR POLITICAL PARTY  
TOLERANCE IN ZIM; HARARE

1. UNDER HEADLINE "NEW POLITICAL CULTURE OVERDUE,"  
THE  
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "THE HERALD" USED ITS  
MARCH 20 EDITORIAL TO CALL ON THE TWO MAJOR  
POLITICAL PARTIES - ZANU PF AND MDC - IN ZIMBABWE  
TO CO-EXIST, SAYING THE PARTIES " HAVE TO LEARN TO  
LIVE TOGETHER, ARGUE TOGETHER AND OPPOSE EACH OTHER  
IN A WAY THAT BUILDS ZIMBABWE." EXCERPTS:
2. ". . .ZIMBABWE IS LONG OVERDUE FOR A CHANGE IN THE  
WAY IT REGARDS POLITICS. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THE  
COUNTRY HAS LIVED WITH A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. YET THERE  
ARE FAR TOO MANY REMNANTS OF A CULTURE WHERE THERE WAS  
JUST ONE DOMINANT PARTY AND A BUNCH OF HAS-BEENS  
PROVIDING A TRIVIAL OPPOSITION. REGRETTABLY, THE  
INHERITED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE COLONIAL DAYS  
WAS ALSO BUILT AROUND THE IDEA OF A MONOLITHIC RULING  
PARTY. . .

"THE FIRST CONCEPT WE NEED TO INTRODUCE INTO A NEW  
POLITICAL CULTURE IS THAT THE OTHER PARTY IS NOT  
THE ENEMY. THE OTHER PARTY MIGHT BE WRONG, IT  
MIGHT EVEN BE PIGHEADED, BUT IT IS STILL PART OF  
ZIMBABWE AND HAS TO BE REGARDED AS SUCH. PARTIES  
CAN OPPOSE EACH OTHER, AND DO SO VIGOROUSLY, BUT  
THEIR AIM SHOULD NOT BE TO DESTROY EACH OTHER. THE  
SECOND THING WE HAVE TO ACCEPT IS THAT THE DAYS OF  
A MONOLITHIC PARTY ARE GONE, FOREVER. . .

"IN SHORT, TALKS BETWEEN ZANU PF AND THE MDC SHOULD  
NOT DWELL TOO MUCH ON TRYING TO FIND COMMON GROUND  
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PAGE 03 HARARE 00727 200846Z  
IN POLICY. THEY DIFFER TOO MUCH. ONE OR THE OTHER  
WOULD HAVE TO SELL OUT IN ITS CORE BELIEFS. BUT  
PARTIES SHOULD HELP CREATE AND SUSTAIN A NEW  
POLITICAL CULTURE THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE  
REALITY OF OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE TWO LARGE, WELL-  
SUPPORTED PARTIES LED BY THE ONLY TWO MEN EVER TO  
WIN MORE THAN 1 MILLION VOTES IN A ZIMBABWEAN  
ELECTION. WE HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER, ARGUE  
TOGETHER AND OPPOSE EACH OTHER IN A WAY THAT BUILDS  
ZIMBABWE. THAT IS THE CHALLENGE."

SULLIVAN

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